Over 250 leaders from around Wisconsin attended the inaugural Healthiest State Summit in Green Bay this past September. This diverse group of participants convened with a shared commitment to work together toward advancing health equity in Wisconsin. Building on the energy and work from the 2017 Healthiest State Agenda Setting Convening, the Summit supported shared action to advance health equity and community well-being and provided opportunities for cross-cutting skill development. We are pleased to provide this summary report as we begin planning for the 2019 - 2020 Healthiest State meetings.

**About the Healthiest State Summit**

Wisconsin has a long legacy of a strong commitment to advancing the public’s health and the intention of the Healthiest State Summit is to continue and deepen this work. Building on the foundation of the Prevention Conference (hosted by the Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Prevention Resources), which provided cross-cutting skill development for public health leaders and coalitions, the Summit also aims to support collective action on conditions that advance health equity and community well-being.

The goals of the Healthiest State Summit are to:

- Convene and support diverse leaders in setting and taking action on a common agenda to align and catalyze efforts;
- Provide capacity building and support to address cross-cutting needs, challenges, and opportunities; and
- Advance a shared narrative that expands the understanding of what shapes health and equity.

During odd years, an Agenda Setting Convening is held to identify shared priorities. In even years, a statewide Summit is held to provide training and capacity building and to support coalition building and further alignment around priorities. The outcomes and planning for these events are linked to shared action between convenings. The hope is that these efforts will lead to a strong and diverse network of effective leaders and coalitions, working together to achieve sustainable changes to advance health equity in Wisconsin.

**Laying the Groundwork: 2017 Healthiest State Agenda Setting Convening**

A small, targeted group of individuals met October 31 - November 1, 2017 in Madison for a strategic visioning session to shape shared work and the inaugural Healthiest State Summit. Participants were comprised of leaders from across the state who work to advance the public’s health. The Agenda Setting Convening was intended to plan for aligned action to improve health equity and to develop collective capacity to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be healthy. In addition to agenda setting, there was a focus on strengthening the collective voice to expand the understanding of what shapes health in Wisconsin’s policy arena through training and Capitol visits.
Laying the Groundwork: 2017 Healthiest State Agenda Setting Convening (continued)

Participants engaged in an interactive, crowdsourcing activity to identify the following six shared priorities:

- Center leadership and voices of those most impacted by inequity
- Build alliances and partnerships — locally and nationally
- Declare racism a public health emergency
- Develop a health equity narrative
- Develop a health equity legislative/policy agenda
- Identify and support public health champions

Workgroups were convened to make progress on these shared priorities in the year leading up to the 2018 Summit.

Read the full 2017 Healthiest State Agenda Setting Convening Summary.

2018 Summit Overview

The inaugural Healthiest State Summit brought together a diverse group of leaders from around the state for a robust two day meeting. Participants represented diverse sectors and types of organizations. This included governmental public health, non-profit organizations, health care systems, funders, coalitions, community organizing groups, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, and others. Half of the participants had a statewide focus, while the other half focused their work at the local level. The Summit included national keynote speakers, skill-building and training sessions, spotlights on local communities’ work, panel discussions, and action spaces for continued work on shared priorities around health equity.

“This was one of the best public health conferences I’ve been to. I thought the topics and speakers were exceptional. The Summit brought together partners and collaborators to demonstrate how to begin and build health equity work.”

Keynotes

Glenn Harris - Center for Social Inclusion and Race Forward

Glenn Harris is the president of the new Race Forward – a union of two leading racial justice nonprofits: Race Forward and Center for Social Inclusion (CSI) – publisher of Colorlines, and a co-founder of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

A prolific speaker and trainer, Glenn has helped hundreds of organizations across the country center racial equity in their work. He has over 25 years of experience working on issues of race and social justice—working with community groups, foundations, and government agencies dedicated to building a more just and democratic society.

David Erickson – Federal Reserve Bank

David J. Erickson is director of the Community Development Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. His areas of research include community development finance, affordable housing, economic development, and institutional changes that benefit low-income communities. Erickson has a Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, with a focus on economic history and public policy. He also holds a master’s degree in public policy from Berkeley and an undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College.

David has been a leader in the collaboration between the Federal Reserve and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in bringing the health sector together with community development. To date, this collaboration has resulted in 39 conferences and numerous publications, including a cluster of articles in Health Affairs in November, 2011. His book on the history of community development, The Housing Policy Revolution: Networks and Neighborhoods, was published in 2009 by the Urban Institute Press. He also co-edited Investing in What Works for America’s Communities: Essays on People, Place, and Purpose (2012); What Counts: Harnessing Data for America’s Communities (2014); What It’s Worth: Strengthening the Financial Futures of Families, Communities and the Nation (2015); and What Matters: Investing in Results to Build Strong, Vibrant Communities (2017).
Panel Discussions

Policy Forum: Healthier, Safer, and Vibrant WI Communities: The Role of Policy Making at Multiple Levels

Panelists:
- Mayor Tim Hanna, City of Appleton
- Representative Amanda Stuck, WI 57th Assembly District
- Representative John Nygren, WI 89th Assembly District
- Brenda Warren, Green Bay Area Public Schools

Moderator: Sam Austin, UW Population Health Institute

Healthiest State Summit Closing Panel and Call-to-Action

Panelists:
- Lynn Coriano, POINT Project Director
- Kelly Ryan, Incourage
- Greg Wesley, Strategic Alliances and Business Development, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Sheri Johnson, UW Population Health Institute
- Kabzuag Vaj, Freedom Inc.

Moderator: Karen Timberlake, Michael Best Strategies LLC

Concurrent Sessions

The 2018 Summit featured five blocks of five concurrent sessions, which included a mix of training sessions and presentations, local spotlight presentations, and action spaces — all of which were tied to the six health equity priorities. (See the 2018 Health Equity Priorities Workgroup Overview to learn more.)

Action spaces at the Summit provided dedicated session time for workgroups focused on four of the six health equity priorities to convene and continue shared work, and they provided an opportunity for new participants to learn more and plug into the work. The following priorities’ workgroups met and moved their objectives forward at the Summit:

- Center leadership of those most impacted by inequity
- Declare racism a public health emergency
- Develop a health equity narrative
- Develop a health equity legislative/policy agenda

The 2018 Summit featured 20 spotlight presentations from partners around the state to highlight health equity work at the local level. Presentations, which were grouped into the following five themes, gave participants the opportunity to learn from community experiences:

- Community Engagement and Partnerships to Advance Health Equity
- Leveraging Resources and Funding for Health Equity
- Health Care as Leaders in Creating Healthy Community Conditions
- Policy, Systems, and Organizational Change for Health Equity
- Using Data for Action

For a full listing of concurrent sessions and other special events, please see the printed program.

What's Next?

Commitments to Action

Through a paper and online Action Step Picklist, Summit participants were asked to engage in commitments to action to advance health equity on behalf of themselves, groups, and networks to which they belong. MATCH is using this information to engage individuals in the ongoing work and to support planning for future efforts.

Health Equity Priorities Workgroups

The Health Equity Priorities Workgroups continue to meet - both as small workgroups to move objectives forward and as a full group to connect across priorities and discuss emergent issues in health equity. Workgroup resources are being compiled for dissemination and a training plan to support resources is in development. MATCH is excited to announce two new staff members, Kristi Anderson and Raymond Neal, whose roles include providing support for the workgroups and training. If you have questions or would like to learn more about the workgroups or the training opportunities, please reach out to Kristi (klanderson23@wisc.edu) or Raymond (raymond.neal@wisc.edu).

2019 - 2020 Healthiest State Planning

Planning is underway for the 2019 - 2020 Healthiest State Summit cycle. We are eager to come together once again in Green Bay for the 2020 Healthiest State Summit. Promotion will begin soon! If you are interested in learning more about the 2019 Agenda Setting Convening, please contact Ann McCall (ann.mccall@wisc.edu).
**Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH)**

The Healthiest State Convenings are an effort of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute’s Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) Group. MATCH works with partners to evolve practice, focus priorities, and shift power to support collective action on root causes of health and equity. MATCH does this through:

- **Training** - builds capacity on critical practices, including health equity, systems and collaborative leadership lenses, through delivering training, providing technical assistance, and leading learning and action networks
- **Engaged Research & Development** - supports data to action and develops and shares scholarship, frameworks and tools for change
- **Alignment** - convenes and grows alliances for shared action

For more information please visit: [https://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu/match](https://uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu/match)

**University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute**

The mission of the UW Population Health Institute is translating research for policy and practice. The Institute advances health and well-being for all by developing and evaluating interventions and promoting evidence-based approaches to policy and practice at the local, state, and national levels. The Institute works across the full spectrum of factors that contribute to health. A focal point for health and health care dialogue within the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a convener of stakeholders, the Institute promotes an exchange of expertise between those within the university and those in the policy and practice arena. For more information please visit: [www.uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu](http://www.uwphi.pophealth.wisc.edu)

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**Thank you to the 2018 Healthiest State Summit Sponsors:**

**Wisconsin Partnership Program**

**University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health**

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**Save-the-Date!**

2020 Healthiest State Summit
September 9 - 11, 2020
KI Convention Center | Green Bay, WI